

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07097 251848Z

15

ACTION AF-06

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R 251459Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO USDOC WASHDC
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UNCLAS LAGOS 07097

FOR JOHN SANDS, MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, EMIN, NI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: NIGERIAN VISIT TO DIRECT REDUCTION
STEEL PLANTS.

REFS: A) LAGOS 3788
B) LAGOS 3085

1. NIGERIAN DELEGATION DEPARTS LAGOS JULY 26 FOR FOUR-COUNTRY INSPECTION OF DIRECT REDUCTION PLANTS AND PROCESSES. DELEGATION HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY D.O. DEDE, HEAD OF MININDUSTRIES STEEL DIVISION. AMONG OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARE DR. P.C. EZEIFE, DIRECTOR INDUSTRIAL DIVISION, CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE, MINECON DEV (MEDR), AND DR. V.O. OGUNBA, SENIOR ENGINEER AND HEAD OF PLANNING AT NIGERIAN STEEL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NSDA). LATTER WILL SERVE AS ADVISOR TO DELEGATION SINCE, IN EZEIFE'S WORDS, ANY DIRECT REDUCTION FACILITY IN NIGERIA WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF NSDA WHICH "HAS ITS HANDS FULL WITH THE RUSSIAN PROJECT." EZEIFE EXPLAINED THAT MEDR FIRST MOOTED POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT REDUCTION PLANTS IN NIGERIA, HAS VIGOROUSLY PUSHED THE IDEA AND WILL PROBABLY BE THE AGENCY TO BRING IT TO FRUITION.

2. FOLLOWING STOPS IN WEST GERMANY (THYSSEN AND KORF) AND CANADA (MIDREX DR PLANT AT SIDBEC-DOSCO), GROUP ARRIVES IN CLEVELAND AUG. 3. DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD THERE WITH ARTHUR MCKEE AUG 4 AND WITH SWINDELL DRESSLER IN PITTSBURGH AUG 5
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BEFORE GROUP DEPARTS AUG 6 FOR VISITS TO HYL PLANTS IN

MONTERREY AND PUEBLA MEXICO.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SUGGESTS MEPD MAY WISH CONTACT GROUP AT ONE OF TWO US STOPS. EZEIFE, WHO IS HARVARD TRAINED PH.D. HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COME TO WASH AROUND AUG 10 FOLLOWING MEXICO PORTION OF TRIP. OGUNBA IS ALSO U.S. EDUCATED, WORKED SEVERAL YEARS FOR G.E. IN SCHENECTADY AND THEREFORE LIKELY PROLONG US STAY. NOT CERTAIN IF OTHER MEMBERS WOULD BE WILLING VISIT WASHINGTON. EVEN IF ONLY EZEIFE COMES, WE BELIEVE THIS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEDR TO LEARN FROM INFLUENTIAL CENTRAL PLANNER LATEST FMG THINKING ON DIRECT REDUCTION POSSIBILITIES AND OF COURSE TO MAKE STRONG PITCH ON BEHALF US COMPANIES. CROSBY

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